



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - April 7, 2003**

- ***In the West***, mild, dry weather favors fieldwork across most of the region. However, wet weather continues in the ***Pacific Northwest***, which remains one of the few areas in the ***West*** not facing water-supply concerns due to low reservoir levels and prospects for below-normal spring and summer runoff.
- ***On the Plains***, cold, snowy conditions linger from ***eastern Colorado to Nebraska and South Dakota***, causing temporary inconveniences but easing long-term drought. Cool weather is slowing winter wheat development on the ***Plains***, including ***Montana***, where the crop only recently began to break dormancy.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a spring storm system continues to produce heavy snow in a narrow band from ***Nebraska and South Dakota eastward to Lower Michigan***, disrupting travel and stressing livestock, but boosting soil moisture reserves. Meanwhile, beneficial rain showers are falling across the ***Ohio Valley***.
- ***In the South***, showers and locally severe thunderstorms are sweeping across areas ***east of the Delta***, while dry weather is returning to the ***western Gulf Coast region***. A return to wet weather across the ***South*** is causing some fieldwork delays, following a period of warm, dry weather favorable for spring planting.

**Outlook:** A complex spring storm system will move from the ***Ohio Valley*** to the ***Mid-Atlantic Coast***, providing a variety of unsettled weather to the ***eastern U.S.*** Wintry precipitation (snow, sleet, and freezing rain) is likely across portions of the ***Great Lakes and Northeastern States***, while locally heavy rain will fall across the ***Mid-Atlantic, Southeastern, and Gulf Coast States***. By mid-week, a second storm system will lift northeastward from the ***Gulf Coast***, bringing another round of rain to the ***Southeast and southern Mid-Atlantic region***. The remainder of the nation will remain mostly dry, with warmer weather gradually replacing the unseasonably cold conditions on the ***Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 12-16 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***southern Plains and Southwest***, while below-normal precipitation is expected from the ***central and northern Plains eastward to the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***eastern half of the nation***, while below-normal temperatures are likely in much of the ***West***.

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